



European
Committee for
Standardisation



How joining an IT professional body can help your career

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What is a professional body?

An organisation with members who practice a particular profession or occupation. They usually advise on knowledge, skills, support, appropriate conduct for the profession

But it is much more..

IT professionals need a network of like-minded people to:

- Help them to navigate their careers
- Facilitate learning events and seminars
- Advise them on professional training and career development
- Share industry insights, trends, innovations etc



Licence to Practice

- Some professions need a licence to practice that is provided and regulated by a professional body
- IT is not so regulated
- The benefits of membership, therefore, must be more attractive and entice professionals to join
- The idea of belonging to a community of like-minded, fellow professionals is usually a key incentive



Would you join a professional body?

- As a student, you have one eye on assignments and exams and the other on your career
- A professional body can give you the support of a wider community of students from different colleges and courses
- This community also introduces you to real IT professionals who are thriving in their careers
- This professional community signposts career opportunities and introduces you to IT professionalism
 - Provides advice on professional standards and guidelines for professional practice.

What do we mean by IT Professional?

IT Professionals are **specialists** engaged in the design, development, operation or support of digital devices, applications, databases, networks and related systems.

Roles include:

- Developer
- Business Analyst
- Network Specialist
- Quality Assurance Manager
- ICT Security Specialist/Manager
- Enterprise Architect



A professional body

- Unites this diverse profession
- Promotes its interests, nationally and internationally
 - Most professional bodies have global networks, international connections, reciprocal membership, eg CEPIS, IFIP, EFMI, itSMF, IASA
 - Gives professionals a voice distinct from the industry
- Membership indicates a commitment to the profession and to the industry

As a member of your local professional body:

- Networking
 - Becomes easier through industry relevant events held by the body and attended by your peers.
- Continuous professional development and upskilling
 - Become more targeted to your needs
 - Are more affordable through workshops and courses available to members at a reduced cost.
- Access to industry insights
 - Are hard to find, but through a professional body, are readily available
- New employers will recognise membership as a commitment to your career and to the highest standards of your profession.

Belonging



Research has indicated that a strong motivator in young people's choice of career was the sense of belonging they might achieve in their chosen profession



Professional bodies, particularly IT professional bodies which depend on voluntary membership, work hard to provide that community experience



Competent and respected, IT professionals are serious influencers, but their professional bodies are stronger than the sum of the individual members

The Voice of the Profession in your Country

- The IT profession is at the heart of Europe's economic and social life
 - It needs to have its voice heard at the policy table
 - It is no longer merely a service provider to industry and government
 - It has a position, derived from on-the-ground knowledge of the power and potential of technology
 - It deserves to be heard – by policy makers, in the media
- A professional body is the best way to gather the expert views of the profession and to articulate them in decision-making arenas
- The status and profile of the body raises the interest in what it says or lobbies for



- Enhanced professional status
 - Comprehensive help and support
 - A strong collective voice
 - An advocacy channel
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- A host of membership benefits derived from the commercial strength of a large group of people



Thank You

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